

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated September 7, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 have been amended. No new matter is presented. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in at least Figure 1 of the application as originally filed. Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending and respectfully submitted for reconsideration.

### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino (JP 10-139401) in view Fairlie et al. (WO 00/69773, "Fairlie") as evidenced by Walz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,637). Ogino is cited for disclosing many of the claimed elements of the invention with the exception of a second storage means for storing and supplying the hydrogen gas obtained by the reforming means to a second fuel cell used as a mobile electric power supply and a second supply line supplying the hydrogen gas from the reforming means to the second storage means. Fairlie and Walz are cited for curing this deficiency.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino, Fairlie and Walz and applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Fujitani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,728,483, "Fujitani"). Ogino, Fairlie and Walz are cited for disclosing many of the claimed elements of the invention with the exception of a first storage means that releases the hydrogen gas from the hydrogen absorbing alloy by use of waste heat of

the reforming means or waste heat of the first fuel cell. Fujitani is cited for curing this deficiency.

To the extent that the above-noted rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants traverse the rejections and respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-7 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, in part, “a first supply line supplying the hydrogen gas from the reforming means to the first storage means... a second supply line supplying the hydrogen gas from the reforming means to the second storage means; a pressurization means, provided only in the second supply line, for pressurizing the hydrogen gas to be stored by the second storage means.” The Office Action acknowledges that Ogino does not disclose a second supply line. The Office Action asserts that “adding a second hydrogen supply line with purifier, pressurization means and storage means to the apparatus of Ogino downstream of the first purifier is a mere duplication of parts.” See page 3, lines 14-16 of the Office Action. The Applicants respectfully submit however, that providing a second supply line that is different from a first supply line is not a duplication of parts and is not disclosed or suggested in Ogino. Specifically, Ogino does not disclose or suggest a pressurization means that is provided in only one of two supply lines, as required by claim 1. Therefore, Ogino does not disclose or suggest a pressurization means, provided only in the second supply line, for pressurizing the hydrogen gas to be stored by the second storage means, as recited in claim 1.

Fairlie and Walz fail to cure the deficiencies in Ogino, as Fairlie and Walz also do not disclose or suggest at least the feature of a pressurization means, provided only in the second supply line. As such, the combination of Ogino, Fairlie and Walz fails to disclose or suggest the features of the invention as recited in claim 1.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1. As discussed above, Ogino, Fairlie and Walz do not disclose or suggest the features of the invention as recited in claim 1. Fujitani fails to cure the deficiencies in Ogino, Fairlie and Walz, with respect to claim 1 as Fujitani also does not disclose or suggest at least a pressurization means, provided only in the second supply line, for pressurizing the hydrogen gas to be stored by the second storage means. As such the combination of Ogino, Fairlie, Walz, and Fujitani fails to disclose or suggest the features of the invention as recited in dependent claim 4.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, each and every feature of a rejected claim must be taught or suggested by the applied art of record. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that Ogino, Fairlie, Walz, and Fujitani, either singly or in combination, fail to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness for purposes of a rejection of claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4 are not rendered obvious in view of Ogino, Fairlie, Walz, and Fujitani and should be deemed allowable.

### **Conclusion**

The Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3-7 depend from claim 1 and incorporate the patentable aspects thereof. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-7 under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a), allowance of claims 1 and 3-7 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 101175-00035.**

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda L. Barton  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 47,271

**Customer No. 004372**

ARENT FOX LLP

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20036-5339

Tel: (202) 857-6000

Fax: (202) 638-4810

RLB/wbp